

XLI.—*Notes on Ibidorhynchus struthersii*.

By Captain W. WILFRID CORDEAUX.

THIS bird is very local in its distribution. Personally I have observed it only in the neighbourhood of the Lanwi La, on the Kashmir side of the pass, for a distance of twenty miles down the Wurdwan River, which rises from the foot of the great Bhutkol glacier, along the surface of which is the trackway over the Lanwi La. Across the pass I have seen the bird at Dunore, the first camping-ground on the Ladakh side: from thence to Suru village and fort, along the valley of the Chiloong River to its junction with the Suru River, and below this for about seven miles down the Suru towards Sanko.

The Lanwi La or Bhutkol Pass, elevation 14,350 feet, is the chief route between the Wurdwan country and Ladakh. Lanwi La is the Bhotia name for the pass, the word La meaning a pass; the Kashmiris call it the Bhutkol. Both the Wurdwan and Chiloong Rivers are, like all streams rising from glaciers, broken up by numerous sandbanks, which divide them into a network of shallow streams. It is here that *Ibidorhynchus* is met with, searching with great activity for small crustacea along the edge of the water, and moving with a quick run, very like a Redshank; sometimes they will swim across a pool of water or narrow stream.

The birds are invariably met with in pairs both in and out of the breeding-season, which commences during the second week in May, as I had the nestlings brought me on the 30th June, 1896, evidently about twelve days old. These closely follow the colouring of the old birds—a dark grey-blue above, lighter on the lower parts. In places the down is faintly marked with brown. The legs are a greenish grey. The bill, unlike the crimson-red of the mature bird, is sepia-black; iris brown. The grey-blue colour of the young assists it very materially to conceal itself in the shingle, which is of the same tint. The old birds are very difficult to see at a distance of 30 or 40 yards in the glare of a Ladakh sun, as they assimilate so nearly to the background

of white and blue stones, and are rendered more conspicuous by the black band across the breast, which is quite wanting in the young bird.

The nest is merely a saucer-shaped depression in the sand. The natives know the bird well, and told me that their children find the eggs; and the Ladakhi boy is a terror among birds' eggs, which he loves to suck whenever he gets the chance. The natives also say that the bird lays one or two eggs, and the colour is grey-blue with dark markings. This sounds likely, as it is a good protective colour, and would make it very hard to detect the egg among the shingle. I got this information from the head man at Suru; and when I asked him as to what colour the egg was, after some thought he picked up a blue pebble and said, "Like this, sahib, with black markings" (*kala nishan*).

I made a rough drawing of the young bird, which I afterwards sent, preserved in spirit, to Professor Newton at Cambridge.

The call of the old bird more nearly resembles that of the Whimbrel than any other I can mention.

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XLII.—*Notes on the Godwits (Limosa).*

By E. A. S. ELLIOT.

AMONGST the Waders, a class of birds I have had unusual opportunities of watching for many years along the shores of Kingsbridge Estuary, South Devon, the Bar-tailed Godwits have always been a great attraction. The striking change of plumage from winter to summer, their erratic appearance at the times of migration, and the desire to raise this group above the level of that hen-pecked one of Phalaropes, to which they have been likened in their habits of courtship and nidification, have induced me to follow the Godwit in his coming in and going out ever since I could tell one bird from another.

In the fall-migration the Bar-tailed Godwit arrives in our estuary the latter end of August in small flocks of six or